

THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW



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Thursday, November 12, 1998

Mt. Miguel now eyeing Helix-style block schedule

by Jason Williams

Following in the footsteps of Helix High School, another great Grossmont Union High School District campus, Mount Miguel is considering a switch from their standard 54-minute full-year classes to a 4x4 schedule.

Over the past five years, Helix has switched its schedule back and forth through a variety structures, beginning with block scheduling where six 90-minute classes were broken up into a two day rotating schedule. The intention was to relieve some of the pressure of the six-class day.

After three variations on the block schedule, Helix finally settled on the quarter system where students take three or four 90 minute classes each quarter — two quarters making up a full year.

The following two quarters, the students take another set of three to four classes. With this reduction in the number of courses the students were able to focus their attention, dividing their time between fewer classes.

The 4x4 schedule being considered by Mount Miguel works along the same lines as Helix's quarter system.

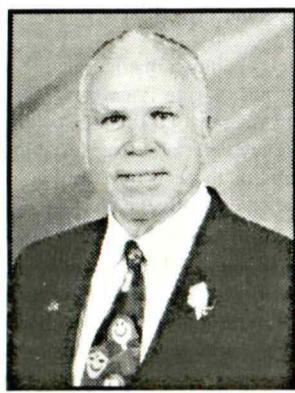
If the plan is adopted, students at Mount Miguel will be taking four 90-minute classes per semester or term, allowing them to complete eight classes a year opposed to the standard six.

"Kids having four classes instead of six is really a key element," said Mount Miguel Principal Russ Boehmke. "Also teachers will only have three periods, reducing the number of students they teach from 175 a day to 105. The 90 minutes will also free teachers from having to rush."

Students will be able to complete full year courses in half a year as the 54-minute class for a 180-day year will be replaced by 90-minute classes for 90 days.

Perhaps the most innovative prospect of the new schedule will take shape out of the opportunity for students to take more elective classes.

Under the new schedule the students will have the opportunity to complete 320 credits in four years, as opposed to 240 currently. This makes room for eight



Principal Russ Boehmke

more elective courses and from this the students will be given the unique opportunity of declaring a major in high school.

Boehmke said the staff will not begin outlining major programs and career paths until the new schedule is approved, but sounded excited at the prospect.

The declaration of a major will be optional and will not alter the graduation requirements for those students who do select a field because they still have to meet graduation requirements. However, the major will act as a focus for electives and in selecting required classes.

Another positive aspect of the new schedule, is that it gives students the chance to repeat failed courses within the same school year, greatly reducing the need for summer school.

Sports and other extracurricular activities such as drama and band which sometimes rely on after school practice and rehearsal time are one of the chief concerns integrating into the new schedule.

Initially sports were looking at a fourth period for practices, but according to Boehmke that type of plan would not be implemented during the first year in order to give coaches time to find a coaching staff that could meet the earlier time requirements.

As for the arts, Boehmke suggested perhaps they would act on a seasonal schedule, considering there are six levels of band and under the new schedule only room to teach three of them at a time.

Drama and speech would alternate as well, perhaps beginning with speech the first semester and drama productions in the spring.

Whether or not the new schedule will better prepare students for college will only be determined by time, according to Boehmke, but the 4x4 system seems to be catching on across the nation.

The teachers will be voting on the measure on Dec. 18 and an approval of 80 percent is necessary to go forward with the plan.

Meetings are scheduled to inform parents at the auditorium on Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 3. Students will have orientations on Dec. 1, 2. The parents and students will also be given the opportunity to vote and voice their opinions at the end of each of these meetings.

Community wary of Caltrans plans

by Cheryl Cohen

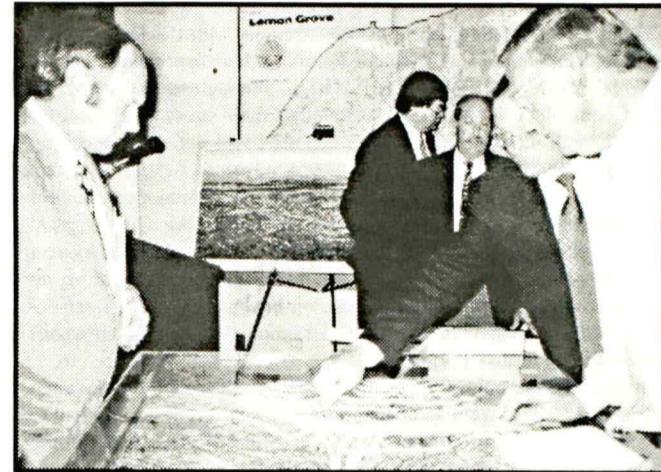
Suspicion and doubt have followed a lack of communication between Caltrans and the city of Lemon Grove about the impact from the proposed state Route 125 interchange project.

Angry voices emanated from citizens and council members alike at back-to-back council meetings, questioning the practices and engineering of the agency.

The protests come from the perception that Caltrans has offered inadequate responses or actions to leaving a behemoth's footprint — a "detention basin" — at the corner of Sweetwater Road and Broadway in Lemon Grove.

The basin was not studied in the Environmental Impact Report for the project, and Caltrans has made it clear that it has no intention of drafting a new EIR.

Referred to as anything from a "pond" to a "bay," the basin's purpose is to store storm drainage, slowing some of the flooding which normally occurs at the corner, and to catch concentrated runoff from the new



Engineer Ted Olsen shares the finer points of a Caltrans model with citizens at last week's city council meeting.

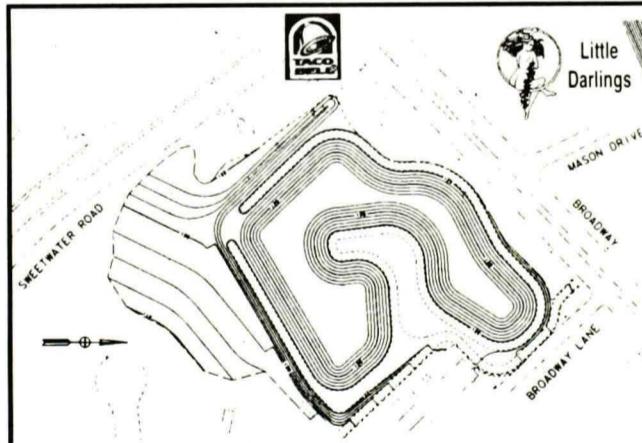
Photo by Cheryl Cohen

fenced-off area surrounding it.

The basin would be surrounded by sycamore and cottonwood trees, which would be enclosed by a chain link fence.

Hopkins addressed concerns about water accumulation and accompanying problems, ranging from drownings to mosquitoes.

The basin is designed to hold water for about an eight-hour period, after which all water should drain off and follow the



Caltrans plans to build a pond next to where Taco Bell now stands on Sweetwater Road and Broadway.

freeway interchange, 125 feet overhead. Overall, it is designed to eliminate one-third of the flooding.

There was loose talk of making this area some sort of park during the General Plan update. At that time, there wasn't much information about the slope and shape of the area that would be left over from the freeway overpass and its support structure. It was to be too small and irregularly shaped to relocate light-industrial businesses north and east of Home Depot.

Instead, Caltrans' plans for the area, as presented by district chief of design Rick Hopkins and Rick Liptak of Dokken Engineering, now include a 3-million-gallon, 10-foot-deep detention basin covering 1.5 acres and a four-acre-

channel which flows to Spring Valley. Long ago, a lake in this area was drained off in order to build a golf course, which was later replaced by a subdivision now called Brookside.

Long-time Brookside resident Gene Sprofera objects to the fact that residents of his neighborhood were not noticed by Caltrans in time to formally present their arguments against the detention basin.

He said that the additional runoff from the freeway is going to aggravate the already marked flooding problems of the area.

"I don't think this pond will help anything," Sprofera said, pointing to a map Caltrans provided for the meeting. "That map represents a geological hazard

that was created when they removed the lake to build Brookside. We're being spooned."

City Councilman Dwight Shelley let loose with a tirade of his own.

"This is not going to benefit our city," he told Caltrans planners. "You don't have to live with it, we do. The very least you could do is leave this land for a park."

Hopkins said parks that curve around freeway supports present their own problems, such as how earthquake retrofitting affected the murals in Chicano Park under I-5.

He said it was possible that they would look into alternate solutions, however, such as joint uses for the facility during the extended periods when it should be dry.

Lemon Grove City Engineer Chuck Stuck is satisfied that although it may not be all it could be if Caltrans would spend the money, the basin will benefit the city.

Lemon Grove will have to improve drain pipes upstream from the basin, but will be joined by the county of San Diego in downstream improvements. Stuck said.

Although there has been a hue and cry about Lemon Grove being left with the drainage problems resulting from waters which will also flow this way from La Mesa, Stuck said that "accept and pass through" is still the only solution when dealing with these kinds of problems.

"Simply because water flows that way, doesn't make La Mesa responsible," he said.

Another major problem is the way Caltrans plans on mitigating sound impact to Mount Miguel High School, which will be practically buried under overpasses.

The Lemon Grove School District has requested double-paned windows and air conditioning as a

Continued on Back Page

M is for Mayor

Personal comments of Mayor Mary Sessom

Street resurfacing/repairs ongoing in city

I thought it was time for a quick status report regarding our streets. If you have driven down Central Avenue lately, you probably were stopped by the construction that has been taking place off and on. A major street resurfacing project started in our city on Oct. 26, being handled by R. E. Hazard Co.

Slurry seal projects include Golden from Washington to Palm, Buena Vista from North to Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon from Main to Massachusetts Avenue and Central from Main Street to Massachusetts.

We may be facing some detours or minor road delays during the construction period. Hopefully, this will be completed prior to the winter rains.

The sidewalk project on Golden Avenue, between Kempf and Lemon Grove Avenue, is proceeding slowly. All landowners but one have dedicated their easement to this project. Hopefully, that owner will be coming around soon. The final negotiations with the last property owner on Kempf are being concluded so that sidewalk project can start.

No other sidewalk projects are in design, although several are on the list. If your block is interested in donating their street easements for sidewalks call me at City Hall. The donation will definitely speed up sidewalk building on your street.

Through a series of grants, the city is beginning a major overhaul of its traffic signal system. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant money of \$51,000 is being used to upgrade the central traffic system and some of our signal equipment. Another \$94,000 grant is allowing us to remove the traffic signals that are on median poles. The intersections of Massachusetts/Broadway and Lemon Grove Avenue/Broadway are first in terms of priority.

In October, the public works dept. repaired 38 potholes and abated graffiti at 44 sites. We also abated gophers (yes, even the city has to deal with these little rodents) at Palm and San Miguel fields. Some sidewalk repair was done to the concrete on Canton between Larwood and Watwood. Preparation for the winter rains was done at Main Street./Buena Vista and 2410 Buena Vista with the removal of silt. Debris was cleaned out of the catch basins citywide.

Please send our county Supervisor, Dianne Jacob, a thank you note for sending work release crews to Lemon Grove. They cleaned 57 sites city wide and finished cleaning up the tools and equipment from Paint Lemon Grove. (Now, if we could get her to send out more of the probationers from Descanso, we could really take care of some repairs that public works has a hard time getting to.)

Were we busy last month? Since this is only a partial list, I must say yes. Kudos to our public works dept. for jobs well done.

Sheriff's Log

Oct. 23, 1998

2000 blk. Dayton Dr. Vehicle burglary. Value unknown.

Oct. 27, 1998

8000 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. Value unknown.

7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. \$399 value.

Oct. 27-28, 1998

6400 blk. Federal Blvd. Vehicle burglary. \$130 value.

Oct. 28, 1998

2900 blk. Main St. Petty theft. \$60 value.

7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Petty theft. \$35 value.

7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. \$22 value.

Oct. 28-29, 1998

1900 blk. Skyline Dr. Residential burglary. \$700 value.

Oct. 30, 1998

2900 blk. Main St. Petty theft. \$57 value.

Oct. 31, 1998

7500 blk. Broadway. Auto theft. Value unknown.

Oct. 29-Nov. 3, 1998

7300 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. \$1,500 value.

Nov. 1-2, 1998

1300 blk. Skyline Dr. Commercial burglary. \$2,008 value.

Nov. 2, 1998

7100 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. Value unknown.

Nov. 2-3, 1998

7500 blk. Broadway. Vehicle burglary. \$72 value.

7800 blk. North Ave. Vehicle burglary. \$335 value.

7500 blk. Broadway. Vehicle burglary. \$169 value.

Nov. 3, 1998

2200 blk. Berry St. Dragged dog into vehicle. \$350 value.

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WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service.

High Low

November 2	74	50
November 3	72	49
November 4	76	53
November 5	-	-
November 6	69	53
November 7	71	50
November 8	66	49

Precipitation

November 8	0.54"
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B Words

by Bob Burns

My comments on the election – why not?

Election over, and everyone has comments on how, and why it turned out as it did. Why should I be different? They are always an enigma where the expected and unexpected are very mysteriously entwined. Rarely is anyone completely satisfied with the results of a multifaceted ballot such as we encounter on most every election day. The most recent vote day was no different.

Now as a staunch supporter of the Proposition LL, the local school bond issue, I was totally satisfied with the results. The 81.06 percent affirmative support that it got was amazing and made me very proud of my home town. However, let me just say that I had mixed feelings about what I read in the paper come Wednesday morning as the results of the balloting were revealed. But again, we can't have everything, so loosing a few slices of a loaf is not that bad.

I guess that I shall never understand why so many of our American citizens just do not take the time to exercise what I feel is monumental privilege in our country. Some of the reasons for not voting have been both serious and whimsical.

The major one is that it just doesn't mean anything. The politicians promise but either don't deliver or do just the opposite. The public speaks through an initiative and it is automatically blocked by the courts.

Then, they say that a good economy mesmerizes a satisfied public not to rock the boat. Without a real hot issue or scandal to stir the citizens ire, they stay home, but even if there is, they disdain to speak via the ballot box.

Apathy seems to be a condition that is endemic in this country. Not even bothering to register to vote is unforgivable in my estimation. Lastly, on my list, is the fact that no small percentage of those who do vote are "againsts." They vote "NO" on everything involving money, and against incumbents or those whom they hold real or imagined grudges. Of course, they are usually the most vocal about existing conditions, but really not much more so than those who do not vote at all.

So, how can this disgraceful method of shaping the destiny of our great nation be changed for the better? Like the weather, everybody complains but no one does anything about it. So, if I were King, what would I do about it? Here's what...

Some penalty would be ascribed to any citizen that was not registered to vote on after their 21st birthday, just like registering for the draft. Naturalization ceremonies would include that process automatically. And, there would be a \$50 tax deduction allowed by the IRS for every "I have Voted" chit produced from any national or state election. This would give a dollar incentive which I believe would do the trick.

Also, campaigning would undergo severe reform. All campaign contributions would be made to a pool to be evenly distributed among candidates, and the media would donate equal time and coverage as well. There would be term limits across the board with a special procedure to retain a particularly popular (effective) individual longer. I admit this would be tough to administrate but it could be done.

Lastly, campaign rhetoric, advertising, and public statements would be held accountable to truth. A strictly non partisan court of oversight would monitor and judge all materials and positions that would be submitted well before election day. And – Nothing would be allowed such as polls, hit pieces or other revelations during the last 10 days prior to election day.

Political parties, special interest groups, and, yes, even the religious and hate groups would be evenly exposed with no advantage over others.

Yes this would cost the public money, but would it not be worth it to have honest and fair elections of officials and issues? John and Jane Doe would then make the hard decisions, and make them stick ...

Upcoming Events

Bike rodeo set for Saturday

The Lemon Grove Community Traffic Safety Fair & Bicycle Rodeo will be held from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday in front of the Lemon Grove Recreation Center, 3131 School Lane.

All drivers, passengers, bicyclists, pedestrians and trolley and bus riders are urged to attend.

Bring your wheels with you! There will be activities for all ages, demonstrations, educational handouts, music, prizes, free food and drinks. There will be a \$200 donation to the PTA of the school with the most attendance.

The event is presented by the Lemon Grove Sheriff's Department, the city of Lemon Grove and the Lemon Grove School District.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Oct. 19, 1998

8000 blk. Longdale St. Possible heart.

1400 blk. El Prado Ave. Chest pains.

2200 blk. Rebecca Way. Medical aid.

7900 blk. Palm St. Chest pains.

3200 blk. Harris St. Seizure.

1700 blk. Primera St. Passing out.

3200 blk. acacia St. Asthma.

1500 blk. Angelus Ave. Difficulty breathing.

Oct. 20, 1998

7000 blk. Berry Park Ln. Back pain.

7500 blk. High St. Assault victim.

2600 blk. Citronella Ave. Fall.

Massachusetts Ave /Hwy 94. Traffic accident.

2500 blk. Peril St. Seizure.

2700 blk. Bonita St. Fall.

Commentary

by Paul Treske

Shortly after the release of the infamous Starr Report, so damning to the President, I essayed in print a series of related predictions. With the 1998 national election over and counted, one of my major predictions came out about as wrong as it could possibly be.

I called for an "agonizingly bad" election result for the Democrats due to the "Clinton affair," with a loss of several seats they have held for years. Boy, was I off base!

That admitted, I noted further along that the "majority of the public wants the mess over with but they also want Bill Clinton to stay in office." If the recent election proved anything, it was just that: do your congressional duty and then get on with it!

At the end of that commentary, I made a long range prediction that 20 years from now historians and the press would view the current media's fixation with a presidential sex affair with shame and wonderment that they were so caught up in it.

As a result of the election's aftermath, I don't believe we'll have to wait near 20 years. Voices are already being heard admitting that perhaps the media has been so absorbed in "Lewinsky-gate" that

I was wrong ... but I was also right!

they completely failed to grasp the public's mindset in the days leading up to the election.

While the media has gone on and on, the majority of the public appears to have moved ahead to real life issues like Social Security, education and the economy.

At this writing, Chairman Hyde and his team are getting ready to do as they promised. I suspect it will be brief and an end far, far short of impeachment despite the continued wailing of the extreme fringes for Clinton's scalp.

As to the next two years leading up to the year 2000 presidential election, we have a rare opportunity to see an ideologically balanced Congress and a chastened president rise above jockeying and squabbling and deal with the issues that the public has so clearly indicated are their concerns.

This is wildly overoptimistic, but seldom has the chance for true congressional bi-partisanship been so present. One would hope that the respective trips to the public's "woodshed" for both the president and the Republican leadership would lead to good behavior for at least a little while.

Reel thoughts

'The Siege' more than stereotypical

by Betty Jo Tucker

With the 1996 World Trade Center bombing, terrorism at home became a concern for U.S. citizens — just as it has been for people living in places like London, Paris or Tel Aviv. "The Siege," a political thriller from 20th Century Fox, explores how far a democratic government should go to protect its citizens from terrorists.

This timely film seethes with intensity and emotion, thanks to its high-powered star trio — Denzel Washington, Annette Bening and Bruce Willis. Washington ("Courage Under Fire") plays the head of a joint FBI/New York Police Department terrorism task force with his usual dynamic flair. His job is to keep New York City safe from terrorist threats.

San Diego's own Bening ("An American President"), always so convincing, projects mystery and courage as an undercover CIA operative with ties to the Arab-American community. Willis ("Mercury Rising"), not on screen here as much as his fans would like, also gives a strong performance. He's the unyielding general who must impose military order in the midst of terrorist attacks.

Among other cast members, Tony Shalhoub stands out in the role of a Lebanese-American FBI agent. He deserves high praise for his fine work in this film. In fact, Shalhoub should have been given top billing along with its three stars. This versatile actor seems equally at home playing it serious or for laughs. (Remember his hilarious Antonio in TV's "Wings" and his imperious Primo, the master chef, in "Big Night")

It's refreshing to see an entertaining movie that also makes you think. "The Siege" is that kind of film. Although receiving criticism for contributing to stereotypes about terrorists, it highlights a serious modern problem while keeping the audience involved throughout.

The same cannot be said for "Pleasantville," a much-touted earlier release from New Line Cinema. This disappointing comedy/drama about two teenagers who zap themselves into a popular '50s black and white TV sitcom rates four snores, at least from this critic. After the brother and sister arrive in



Annette Bening and Denzel Washington watch New York go to the dogs in "The Siege."

upright Pleasantville, their behavior changes everything there. Flashes of color begin popping up each day, until the entire town is colorized. And what causes this phenomenon? Apparently, teenage sex and an extra-marital affair! How profound. And how unpleasant to waste the talents of such fine actors as Jeff Daniels ("Fly Away Home"), William H. Macy ("Fargo"), and Joan Allen ("Nixon"), who play key citizens of "Pleasantville."

A nostalgic trip back to the '50s may sound like a great idea for a movie, but the '90s terrorism crisis of "The Siege" will provide a more exciting and satisfying film experience for many moviegoers.

Prevention is the best medicine for diabetes

by Bob Burns

Middle to older aged men and women who have become a bit overweight, a bit overindulgent in the finer food delicacies, and a bit sedentary in their physical activities may not be aware of an impending physical condition that can alter your life. I am, of course referring to diabetes.

We all know that this is not an uncommon thing as we grow older and live the good life. I certainly speak from experience and having also encountered the results of such a life style and am motivated to write this piece.

Now, if there is record of the disease in one's background, then it is almost certain to evolve. Having parents, grandparents etc. with diabetes will make it a given that you will succumb to it in later life if not earlier. Watching ones diet, and exercising can forestall the condition and its discomforting control measures. However, even without any evidence of the condition in ones background, it very often does become a problem in later life.

PG Perspectives

Fatal errors

by Phillip Giannangeli

I was recently commissioned by a very influential organization, one which must of course remain nameless due to security considerations, to conduct a study on the American teen-ager. After putting my John Hancock to the six figure contract, I began an exhaustive, intensive research project into this fascinating topic. It was an effort fraught with much angst, but a discipline that needed to be scrutinized nonetheless. Following are some of the salient findings of my research thus far. Due to those security considerations mentioned earlier, I will not be able to cite the exact sources for some of the information presented or the detailed methods of research used, but take my word for it, this study is as accurate and meaningful as most of what appears in the media today.

American teen-agers and their eating habits. In studying teens' eating habits, our team found some interesting data. Aside from our main findings, a serendipitous discovery was made. We believe that there may be a strong connection between what has been described as "the slipperiness" of many teens and their diet. Teens are notorious for slipping in and out of various situations and their consumption of gargantuan amounts of fast foods may have much to do with that. The fast foods these teen ingest just happen to contain gargantuan amounts of grease or fat. It is only natural that the ingestion of such fats and the consequence release of them through the pores would render teens very slippery. My research staff and I were impressed with the linkage and we believe it will go a long way in helping people understand the difficulty many adults have in pinning teenagers down. They're so darn slippery, they squish right away.

As to actual teen-age eating habits, they're often hard to evaluate. They rarely eat in a sedentary position and often it's on the run. One important discovery, however, was made. If it's sweet, non-nutritious, or fatty, it's high on their list of favorites. And it will be consumed at all hours of the day or night.

American Teen-agers and fashion. Our study also delved into the teenager's fastidious concern for appearance and the look, or looks, that this concern translates into. Hours will go into making sure that the green hair is jelled into exactly the correct dimensions listed in the teen manual of alternative beauty. Piercing and/or find their way onto teenagers in interesting combinations. The result of these efforts, often unnerving for adults, is reported by most teens to be worth the effort. For them a fashion statement is a fashion statement. And with exclamation points.

American teen-agers and the environment: the teens we studied were found to be some of the most ardent environmentalists around. They spoke ardently of rain forests, toxic waste, global warming, etc. All of this in the global sense. At the local level, however, teenagers turned out to be what could best be described as eco-terrorists. Our research teams investigated the living environs of teens - bedrooms and bathrooms in particular - and found little evidence of any ecological regard for those environments. In fact, it appeared in many instances that teens were bent on destroying any balance between their environment and the coexisting world surrounding them.

American teen-agers and technical prowess: the final area we studied was the area of what might be called technical wizardry. Many, if not most, teens exhibit an almost uncanny ability in this area. Give them a computer, a pager, a video game or activity, and they rate exceptionally high in competence. There is, however, a real disconnect. Show that teen who is a master of the computer how to activate the dishwasher or the lawn mower, and there appears to be a total lack of understanding and knowledge. Presented with a vacuum cleaner, most teens feign terror and run away.

Our study is not yet complete, but I thought it would be helpful to release some of these preliminary findings. The American teen-ager is mysterious, they're also fascinating. They certainly merit more study and observation. Understanding will probably have to wait.

Stop junk mail! Shop out of the newspaper.

Did you know that everytime you respond to mass mail advertising, you send a signal that more businesses ought to be sending junk mail? Think about it. When you patronize newspaper advertisers, you send a message that businesses should advertise in newspapers. What'll it be, a head full of knowledge or a mailbox full of junk?

Without the hereditary burden, it certainly can be avoided by living according to the reasonable rules listed above. Those with faulty genes can put off the distress of treatment for a longer time than in becoming obese and lazy.

Diabetes is a failure of the pancreas gland to produce sufficient insulin which controls blood sugar. High blood sugar levels cause everything from no symptoms up to dizziness, sweating, queasiness, and what is called diabetic coma. Low blood sugar levels on the other hand can cause insulin shock which is even more serious. The trick is to keep insulin levels in sufficient amounts to keep the sugar within proper limits so that neither dire condition exists. A routine blood test will quickly tell one whether the levels are within a normal range.

Intakes of sugar and carbohydrates can be regulated to keep the need for insulin at an effective level. Exercise burns sugar and by denying those Snickers bars, the demand for insulin is reduced. Most food and drink products that contain sugar or

starches will raise the blood levels and thus the strain on the pancreas. So, it can be minimized if not prevented altogether depending upon one's medical history and life style.

The bad news is that diabetes can have dire other effects on the body. Cataracts causing blindness are common. Loss of blood circulation to the extremities routinely cause diabetics to suffer amputation of legs. With active diabetes one is constantly between enough, or not enough insulin. It requires one or more daily blood glucose checks. There are numerous tablets that enhance insulin effectiveness and of course, the insulin itself which must be administered by hypodermic injection. It is also imperative that strict monitoring by a physician be maintained and periodic other laboratory tests be performed as well.

Take it from me, it would be far better to prevent than to treat. I am thankful that medical science has the tools to control the disease. If I knew then, what I know now, I would be much better off today.

County OKs more Drug Court funding

by Joe Naiman

The Board of Supervisors now has the experience of the first class of Drug Court participants. The results received rave reviews from the supervisors, which is good enough for additional funding.

The supervisors appropriated more money for the county's Drug Courts Nov. 10, including up to \$113,034 for the El Cajon Municipal Court program.

"It's truly turning what were once unproductive miserable lives into productive lives and productive citizens in our county," said Supervisor Dianne Jacob, who noted her experience witnessing a drug court "graduation" at the Lakeside Community Center earlier this year.

The supervisors established the Drug Court Pilot Program in August 1996 to provide offenders with a voluntary alternative to incarceration. Each of the four municipal courts in the county have received funding from local sources, including the asset forfeiture fund, as well as state of California Judicial Council and U.S. Department of Justice grants.

The El Cajon court, along with the North County and South Bay

municipal courts, have provided funds for treatment services through Mental Health Systems, Inc., a competitively selected contract provider.

The El Cajon court's funding, if the entire amount is used, will include \$25,000 from the Sheriff's Asset Forfeiture Fund, \$30,000 from the state of California Judicial Council and \$58,034 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The El Cajon Drug Court was established in August 1997, seven months after the North County Drug Court. Because successful discharge from treatment requires a minimum period of 12 months with a typical tenure of 15 months, the only meaningful outcome data so far is for the North County retention rates.

The retention rate of 65 percent of the 81 patients remaining in the program 30 days or longer exceeds the outcome target of 60 percent.

Other outcome goals are at least 55 percent of discharged clients completing their treatment plan and goals, 55 percent remaining alcohol and drug free, 90 percent not having been arrested for drug offenses while in the program, and 85 percent of success-

fully discharged clients employed or actively engaged in employment preparation.

This includes vocational school, supervised activities which develop employment skills, or volunteer or internship work.

The outcome targets were established based on data by Alcohol and Drug Services for services to similar populations in other experimental Drug Court programs across the United States.

The El Cajon Municipal Court has been awarded a grant of roughly \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for an evaluation of the Drug Courts. The courts will provide an in-kind match of about \$160,000, and the El Cajon Municipal Court will use the San Diego State University Foundation as its subcontractor to perform the evaluation.

The grant will cover data from Oct. 1, 1998, through Sept. 30, 2000, and will include an analysis of data on the clients' criminal histories and acts resulting in referrals to Drug Court, the Drug

Court activities, client behavior during the treatment program, the program results with court, provider, and client feedback, and post-program client status.

THE BRIGHTER VIEW

Voter turnout is like elephant in the livingroom

by Rob Richie & Steven Hill

Center for Voting and Democracy

Pardon me, but do you see the elephant in the living room? It's standing there in the middle of the carpet and nobody wants to talk about it. We all just tiptoe around it, year after year, pretending it's not there, hoping it will go away.

Amid all the post-election buzz about Democratic gains and the political futures of Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich, most commentators ignored this most glaring fact: fewer than two in five adult Americans participated in last week's elections. Some even suggested that a turnout rate of 37 percent was a victory of sorts, given the fact that so many states had record-low turnout in primaries this year.

Have we become a nation of electoral under-achievers? The U.S. now has the lowest voter turnout in the world in national elections among established democracies. The long-term implications of our plunging turnout are as serious as fluctuations in the stock market.

What is the cause of this depression? There are as many opinions as pundits. But a central factor that is often overlooked is the lack of competition in most legislative races resulting from the decennial practice of redistricting.

Despite some excitement over unexpected mid-term election gains made by the Democrats this year, the fact is that 99 percent of incumbents won re-election. Nearly a quarter of races didn't even have two major-party candidates, and fewer than one in ten races was won by a competitive margin of under 10 percent.

This imbalance is no coincidence — the district lines were drawn by legislators who pick their constituents before their constituents pick them. In 2001, each state again will draw new districts — using increasingly sophisticated computers to gerrymander "safe" seats, particularly for incumbents.

The result of redistricting is the sort of "no-choice" legislative races we experienced this year, with a direct impact on voter enthusiasm and turnout. The Center's analysis of past elections shows that, not surprisingly, voter turnout drops as the degree of competition decreases. Even when on the winning side, voters don't have a sense that their vote counts for much when their candidate always wins by a landslide.

That is why we support Iowa's criteria-driven redistricting process in which districts are drawn by a nonpartisan independent commission according to the public interest, not narrow political interests. Mapping technology is sufficiently inexpensive today that citizens groups and good government activists can and should be involved in the next round of redistricting in 2000-2001.

More fundamentally, states and localities should consider adoption of proportional representation voting systems. Our current "winner take all" system is a relic of the 18th Century. The more modern proportional representation systems, now in use by most of the established democracies in the world, mirror a free market economy, with voters having the multiplicity of choices from across the political spectrum — a range of choice we treasure so highly as consumers.

With proportional representation, every voter experiences a close election and far fewer votes are "wasted." A political force winning 51 percent of votes earns a majority, but not everything; winning 10 percent wins 10 percent of representation, instead of nothing. Proportional systems have a demonstrated ability to increase voter turnout by 10 - 30 percent, because more voters will cast winning votes for their favorite candidates instead of the "lesser of two evils." Voters can get excited because their votes actually count.

Among many other reforms that can increase voter turnout, here are two particularly promising modifications of our voting procedures that received boosts this election:

- Mail-in balloting:** Bringing more voters out to the polls may be best achieved by bringing the polls to your mailbox. After years of using vote-by-mail for many of their local elections, Oregon voters this year gave a big thumbs up to an initiative calling for polling place elections to be replaced by vote-by-mail. Where it has been used, vote-by-mail has increased turnout.

- Instant Runoff Voting (IRV):** Minnesota probably had the highest turnout in the nation this year, in large part due to Reform Party candidate Jesse Ventura's surprise win in the governor's race. One in eight voters said his candidacy was the reason they voted. Given the interest that can be generated by such candidates, it is important to use a system that encourages their participation without having fractured results that undermine majority rule. IRV simply allows voters to rank candidates in their order of preference. If their first choice finishes last, their vote transfers to their second choice until one candidate has a majority. By eliminating concerns about "wasting" votes on "spoiler" candidates, IRV will help make independents and third parties a more regular part of our elections — and ensure more choice for voters, as well as majority rule.

Pulling us out of our political depression will not be easy, but we must not wait. If our political leaders have the welfare of our nation in mind, they will call for a national campaign to address low voter turnout and our nation's political depression.

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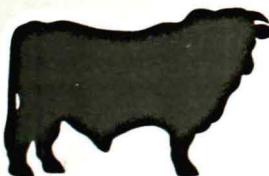
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Highland Players stage male and female 'Odd Couples'

by Jason Williams

The Highland Players of Helix High School are giving their patrons a double treat by performing both the male and the female versions of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple."

Following a stellar 1997-98 season, this troupe is kicking off the 1998-99 season with a double feature.

Each production includes a cast of eight characters, the male version following the cohabitation of Felix Unger and Oscar Madison, while the female version places Florence Unger and Olive Madison in a similar situation.

Osborn said Neil Simon is frequently done at the high school level because the students can connect with his comedy and sense of humor.

He is also trying to give his patrons a chance to come to one production and turn around and see what Simon did with the second version. The original "Odd Couple" was written in the 1960s while the female version was written in the 1980s. This made for some humor differences.

"My hope is this, they will come to see the differences," Osborn said. "Some of the patronage will split between the productions because our big draw is family."

"The Odd Couple" will receive an extended run over the normal four performances, performing for two weekends with six shows — three shows each.

The play opens with the guys dealing poker in Oscar Madison's filthy apartment. Oscar has lived on his own since his wife left him and took his children with her. He is a deadbeat dad with a penchant for gambling.

Oscar's friend Felix Unger soon enters the picture in a suicidal state after learning his wife is leaving him. Felix moves in and cleans up Oscar's apartment, playing the wife in their relationship and ruining Oscar's attempts to live life to the fullest.

They argue and fight like a married couple, taking out their frustrations about the way their lives turned out on each other and discovering that living single takes a lot of work.

Junior Ehrin Marlowe plays the slovenly Oscar and takes control of the scenes in which he trades quips and barbs with costar Leonard Marella. Marella is debuting with the Highland Players as Unger.

Straight-man Vinnie, played by Matt Warburton, is a devoted husband who added laughs by offering a contrast to the independent characters dominating the stage. His simple nature always left him a few steps behind.

The female version followed the same basic plot. Florence Unger's (Danah Davis) husband leaves her and she is forced into the unkept apartment of her friend Olive Madison (Dianna Wilcox) where a clash of lifestyles drives each insane.

Wilcox and Davis had a noticeable chemistry onstage as they kept pace with one another, never getting off each other's back throughout the performance. Davis's depressed and solemn Oliver went hand in hand with Wilcox's brazen and bachelorette Florence.

A strong compliment to the performance was found in the flighty friend Vera (Jennifer Steele), the gruff Sylvie (Michelle Kangani), the anxious cop Mickey (Rachel Little), and the straightforward Renee (Susan Steele).

In both the male and female versions, the pace picked up and the laughter soon followed with the entrances of the foreign neighbors with whom Olive and Oscar attempt to set themselves and their downtrodden roommates up.

Gwendolyn and Cecily Pigeon, played by Lauren Ross and Ashley



Helix drama coach Greig Osborn (far left) unleashes "The Odd Couple" in both genders, featuring Ehrin Marlowe (Oscar Madison) and Leonard Marella (Felix Unger), and Danah Davis (Florence Unger, foreground right), Susan Steele (Renee) and Jennifer Steele (Vera).

Photos by Jason Williams

brothers, straight from "Saturday Night Live," to start bobbing their heads and music to rise in the background.

Overall each version stood on its own, making for two fine evenings at the theater rather than one.

"The Odd Couple" runs nightly at 7:30 p.m. through Saturday at the Helix High School little theater.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

Assigned File No 98026191

The Name of the Business:

1 SANCHEZ CARPET

2 SANCHEZ MARINE CARPET

located at: 7268 San Miguel Ave in Lemon Grove, CA 91945 is hereby registered by the following owner:

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7268 SAN MIGUEL AVE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

NANCY SANCHEZ

7268 SAN MIGUEL AVE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

This business is conducted by:

Individuals - Husband and Wife

The transaction of business

began on: 5-18-88

Signature of Registrant:

NANCY SANCHEZ

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on OCT 13, 1998

Lemon Grove Review

Oct 22, 29 Nov 5 & 12, 1998

Signature of Registrant:

HOSAM D IDRIS

2217 ALTON PLACE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

IBRAHEEM LAKHANI

2210 ALTON PLACE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

NADIR SEHAGI

2217 ALTON PLACE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

MOHAMMAD LAKHANI

2210 ALTON PLACE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

This business is conducted by:

General Partnership

The transaction of business

began on: July 4, 1998

Signature of Registrant:

HOSAM D IDRIS

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/County Clerk of San Diego County on OCT 21, 1998

Lemon Grove Review

Oct 29, Nov 5, 12 & 19, 1998

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Grossmont Union High School District will receive bids for purchase of:

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Each bid shall be submitted on a form obtained at the Purchasing Department of said District, located at 1100 Murray Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020-5664 (mailing address: P.O. Box 1043, La Mesa, CA 91944-1043); shall be sealed and filed in said Purchasing Department on or before 2:00 p.m. on

NOVEMBER 23, 1998

and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time and place. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder meeting specifications. The Grossmont Union High School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept or reject any one or more items or to waive any irregularities or informalities in the bids or in the bidding.

No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

In the event of identical bids, the Governing Board may determine by lot which bid shall be accepted per Public Contract Code 20117.

Michael Harrelson, Clerk of the

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District

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Nov 5 & 12, 1998

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Senior Minister

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Caltrans

Continued from Page 1

reasonable means of sound reduction. Palm Middle School's parking lot and traffic flow would also be greatly affected by the freeway plans, raising student safety issues.

Caltrans' answer to Mount Miguel's problem was to conduct their own noise study. Instead of spending more than \$1.1 million on district-requested sound mitigation, Caltrans decided it could spend \$50,000 on an evergreen retaining wall topped off by a 12-foot sound wall.

Hopkins' claim that Palm Middle School is very happy with the proposed changes met with heated dispute from council and representatives from the school district. Hopkins said that although there might still be some sound issues, it was planned that Caltrans would continue to perform periodic sound tests after the completion of the project. This also was debated.

Richard Tighe, assistant superintendent of maintenance and operations for the school district, said he doubted there had been any talks, let alone levels of satisfaction between Caltrans and the district.

"I am the district's representative for this and I haven't talked to Caltrans in six months," Tighe said.

Numerous citizen concerns regarding the needs of affected students, residents and businesses, the EIR or a satisfactory freeway agreement with the city were shrugged off by Caltrans representatives at the meeting. Hopkins repeatedly deferred to a lack of "monetary avenues" available to Caltrans, the need to be equitable to the "greater society" and the fact that they could only bend financially to those who had come up with legal obstacles to the project.

This didn't sit well with long-time resident and Caltrans critic Rosemary Putnam, who has been battling to get them to buy her home on Crane Street.

Although the agency doesn't need any of her property to complete the project, Putnam's home will lose its panoramic view to a 10-foot sound wall, will have the exhaust of 100,000 vehicles daily within 37 feet of her back door and has already lost what she estimates to be 50 percent of its resale value.

She noted that Caltrans managed to change the path of the freeway to accommodate businesses like Little Darlings Nude Cabaret and the Fantasyland Adult Bookstore, but had torn apart her street, rendering her

property unsaleable.

Hopkins said it was impossible to reimburse everyone impacted.

"Before you know it, we'd own all of Lemon Grove, and won't be able to afford the project at all," he said.

It appears that the city may view some of the project's components as bargaining chips for others.

Council members took umbrage with Caltrans' findings on the EIR, freeway agreement, sound mitigation and general impact on their city. School board member Jerry Jones said Caltrans has earned the moniker, "bad neighbor," with a history of broken promises.

"It's time to start negotiations," Mayor Mary Sessom told Hopkins, regarding the need for Caltrans to bring a new freeway agreement forward. "We are justifiably skeptical. We will have uppermost in our minds what's happening to our schools, our community and with the detention basin."

**Forum Papers -
Keeping the light on
East County**

Students select teachers for 'Who's Who' compilation

A select group of America's teachers are being honored by their toughest critics - their former students, in the fifth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 1998*.

All of the approximately 130,000 teachers being honored were selected by their former students who themselves are currently listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, or *The National Dean's List*, publications which recognize 5% of our nation's high school and college students respectively.

Paul Krouse, publisher of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* said, "There is no greater honor teachers can receive than to be recognized by former students for their excellence and dedication.

In this publication we clearly have the best teachers in America selected by the best students."

The students were requested to nominate teachers who "made a difference in their lives" by helping to shape their values, inspiring interest in a particular subject and/or challenging them to strive for excellence.

Many of the students commented about the enthusiasm and knowledge their teachers demon-

strated in the classroom, and many praised their teachers for their ability to relate to youngsters on a personal as well as a professional level.

One student wrote about her teacher saying, "She made education something pleasurable, instead of a dreadful ordeal, by letting me spread my wings and showing me the best way to fly."

A partial listing of the East County educators honored in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 1998* includes the following:

Steve Baker, Grossmont College; Joseph Henry Jr., Grossmont College; Erl Cabanas, Grossmont High School; Jaime Favorite, Parkway Middle School; Gerald Kirk, Helix High School; Christine Moretti, Helix High School; Victoria Noddings, Helix High School; Ruth Rivera, Helix High School; Cathy Gillard, Monte Vista High School; Ronald Jessee, Monte Vista High School; Michael Kastan, Monte Vista High School; Michael Love, Mt. Miguel High School; William Madigan, III, Mt. Miguel High School; Leslie Melone, Kempton Street Elementary School and Laurel Todd from Rancho Elementary School.



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